



# Marine Aircraft Group 26

## Safety Bulletin

No. 53

27 August 04



### Photo of the Week... All Jacked Up



I don't know about you, but when I read this sign, my first reaction was "Well, no foolin'! Of course you're not going to pass when cars are coming at you." But the sad thing is, there were probably some se-

rious accidents on that stretch of road that prompted the local transportation department to put up this sign. So why would anyone try to pass when the disastrous outcome is so obvious? The answer would probably be similar if you were to ask why people don't wear eye protection while working with chemicals. Or why people don't wear a harness while working on high, steep roofs, or why people stand on the top rung of a ladder and lean. Why do people travel at high speed during an ice storm, and why don't some people ever wear seatbelts or motorcycle helmets? Ignorance? Arrogance? Stubbornness? Rebellion? Maybe someday scientists will develop a pill to keep people from doing really stupid things. Until then, do a quick risk assessment before you start any job. If you find that the dangers have you saying, "Well, duh, I'm gonna hurt myself if I do it that way," then stop and think again about how you can make the job a little safer.

### What's PMO been up to...

- Speeding **1-10 mph over** posted speed limit: **2**
- Speeding **11-15 mph over** posted speed limit: **9**
- Failure to Stop: **5**
- Use of Cell Phone: **2**
- Failure to wear seatbelt: **2**
- DWI (1st Offense): **1**



### WEEKLY SAFETY FLAGALL 8 - 14

#### ON DUTY:

**040818** A LCpl from 1<sup>st</sup> MARDIV was passenger in HMMWV on the way to a pre-determined rally point in Al Anbar. During transit, the ground gave way causing the vehicle to roll over into a canal where he suffered **fatal** injuries.

#### OFF-DUTY

**040815** A SSgt from MCAS CAMP PENDLETON was involved in a roll-over automobile accident. It was unknown whether SSgt was a passenger or driver. The SSgt sustained a broken back, multiple lacerations and underwent surgery to stop the bleeding and repair skin damage. SSgt is in stable condition in the intensive care unit at Loma Linda University Medical Center. The SSgt was wearing a seatbelt.

**040816** A Cpl from MCAS Miramar, CA drove into the back of another vehicle and crashed his motorcycle. Cpl seriously injured his head when his helmet came off during the crash. His condition did not improve and his brain continued to swell until ultimately he was pronounced brain dead. SNM was **taken off life support** at 211430Z AUG 04 at Scripps Memorial Hospital in San Diego, CA.

**040817** A LCpl from 4TH MEB lost control and was thrown from POV. LCpl was pronounced dead at accident site. SNM was not wearing seat belt

**040820.** A LCpl was a passenger wearing a seatbelt in a reclined seat in a POV driven by a PFC. The vehicle rear ended a civilian vehicle and spun out of control into a third vehicle. The accident is currently being investigated by the South Carolina State Police. The LCpl has completed emergency surgery and is currently listed as stable in the ICU.

**040821** A LCPL from 2D AABN was driving a vehicle with 2 civilian male passengers at an excessive speed, lost control, and overturned his vehicle, ejecting all three into a nearby creek, fatally injuring the two civilians, and causing the LCpl to sustain a broken neck and internal bleeding. At 212230Z AUG 04, a Kentucky State Trooper observed an overturned car in a ditch along side the road, stopped to investigate, and found the three bodies floating in a nearby creek. The LCpl is currently hospitalized at the University of Louisville Hospital, and is in critical condition. His level of recovery has not yet been determined. The weather conditions were clear and dry. **No seatbelts were worn.** An accident investigation is ongoing. At this time there are no charges pending.

### You Drink & Drive, You Lose Campaign

We're now in the last two weeks of the "101Critical Days of Summer" and you should be promoting YD&DYL campaign. I've listed some websites below to help with these efforts. With the Labor Day holiday coming up soon where many Marines and civilian employees will be on the road, it is especially important to raise the awareness level of this issue.

Since the beginning of the FY, 9 of 39 traffic fatalities.

If you have scheduled a stand down or a pause during this campaign, please send HQMCSD a synopsis of it's effectiveness - how many people attended, what kind of interest was shown etc.

Through your concerted efforts, we can keep our Marines and Civilian Marines alive and safe.

Stop Impaired Driving

## **MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY COURSES**

### **DRIVER IMPROVEMENT COURSE**

Date: 8 September 2004

Place: AS-212, Room 121A

Time: 0730-1600 (first 25 Marines, so be early)

For planning purposes, we try to schedule the DIC class on the second Wednesday of each month. You will be notified of any change.

Driver's Improvement Class is required for all military personnel under the age of 26 - and must be completed within 90 days of arrival to their first duty station.

AS-212 is located on Bancroft St, next to the Station Headquarters, Pass & ID Building.

### **REMEDIAL DRIVER IMPROVEMENT COURSE**

Date: 10 September 2004

Place: AS-212, Room 121A

Time: 0730-1130

Personnel who have been identified as exhibiting bad driving habits on and off base, or personnel who have been sentenced by the MCAS Traffic Court Judge to attend a Remedial DIC are required to attend this class.

### **Motorcycle BASIC RIDER COURSE**

Date: 25-26 August 2004

Place: AS-320, Rm. 104

Time: 0800

#### **REQUIREMENTS**

Active Duty (Retired military welcome on space available basis)

Own Motorcycle

Motorcycle Learner's Permit or Endorsement

PPE requirements as addressed in MCO 5100.19E

Helmet (SNELL/ANSI/DOT Certified)

Impact/shatter resistant goggles or full faced shield attached to helmet

Reflective vest or brightly colored outer garment (for daytime use)

Hard sole shoes with heels (Leather boots or over the ankle encouraged)

Long sleeve shirt or jacket

Long legged trousers

Full fingered gloves or mittens

Over the ankle shoes/boots

Classes are held at MCAS New River, for details and registration call , (910) 449-5440/6143.

### **Motorcycle EXPERIENCED RIDER COURSE (11 hours)**

Offered by Coastal Carolina Community College

Call 910-938-6294 Information and registration.

Course cost \$40.00.

### **MOTOCROSS SAFETY TRAINING**

**1/2 day class** (\$35.00 per student)

Starting and stopping motorcycle, emergency stopping, swerves, tight turns, jumping techniques, body position.

**Full day class** (\$70.00 per student)

Same for 1/2 day class, plus motorcycle maintenance up keep, track conditions, safety awareness, more in depth riding techniques.

Classes are held at Half Moon Mx Park 1037 Ramsey Rd. Jacksonville, NC 28546.

Phone 910-938-1346/910-577-5850 Instructor Donnie Davis.

## **Road Rage**

Happy Friday Boys and Girls, you know, a wise man once told me that stress is defined as; resisting that overwhelming urge to reach out and smack someone who desperately needs it. I think that's about right, especially when you are driving. I mean every time you passed "that guy" because he was "cruizin'" at 4 mph in a 55 so everyone could see that he has a \$4000 set of rims on a \$200 car, and make sure that everyone, and I mean everyone, can hear the fact that his trunk vibrates just as loud as that mind numbing stuff coming from his stereo, wouldn't it be great if you could politely run him off the road, walk up to his car, and smack the taste out of his mouth? I mean wouldn't we all feel better? Although I am sure there are people who would love to smack the red off my neck as I am tooling along in my Chevrolet, we obviously cant, so lets just not forget this door swings both ways.

So there I was driving through the red neck metropolis we call Jacksonville North Carolina, at about 0700, and between the garbage truck trying to parallel park in front of McDonalds, and the 400 Jar Heads trying to get to work before someone notices they are late, I'm getting a bit agitated to say the least. As you can imagine, the common phrases are going through my head, you know "get off the phone and drive", "what are you thinking", and some of my absolute favorite combinations of cuss words involving both the drivers of the car and their various family members. Side note, ever notice that anyone driving slower than you is a moron, and anyone driving faster than you is a maniac? Anyhow, the individual situations and events of the drive were nothing that can't be blown off or dealt with individually, but the accumulation of the stress involved with dealing with them is something we all should keep an eye on. I have mentioned task saturation in the past, and the stress and or aggravation of this situation is along a lot of the same lines, it builds and builds until you can't hold any more. Now there are people out there who obviously can't handle this sort of thing, and these are the people who get out of their car and shoot people, if you are one of these people, get yourself some help, because you are a danger to yourself and society. If you are one of these people who think that it's O.K. to actually get out of your car and smack someone, ask the guy with the gun for directions to the nearest head shrinker, because you are not far behind him. If you are however like the rest of the planet who just suck it up and ends up at your destination with your hair pulled out, wanting to move to Alaska where the closest thing to traffic is a herd of Caribou, listen up, because this is simple and I think it might help.

It's easy, the stress you are feeling is normal, and it is going to continue to happen, whether it is Caribou or people, so accept it, but try to reduce it. I attribute the majority of stress in this situation to time, if you are not in some kind of hurry, then this whole thing wouldn't be a big deal, so, you guessed it, allow for more of it, 10 minutes could save you an ulcer. Now this doesn't always work out, I mean we all get stuff thrown at us everyday that puts us behind the power curve, so when that happens, make yourself comfortable and realize that no matter what you say about the guy in the Yugo's mother, this is as fast as he is going to go. So get comfortable, turn on the tunes, grab a cup of coffee or something, and relax, life moves fast enough, you don't need to be in a hurry to get to the end of it.

That's all for this week Stay Safe, and Have Fun  
SSgt Heyward